



RED FLAG

MOBILIZE THE MASSES FOR COMMUNISM

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG

MACERATA, ITALY, Feb. 10 – Thousands rallied against racism in this central Italian town after a fascist shot and wounded six people he believed to be migrants. Anti-immigrant racism is a key issue in the March 4 national elections.

NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND, Jan. 20 – Masses demand the closing of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Center, where four prisoners (from Sierra Leone, Poland, Jamaica and Iraq) have died since December 2016.



WORKERS AND YOUTH OF THE WORLD, UNITE TO DESTROY ALL BORDERS WITH COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

NEW COMRADES ARGUE FOR COMMUNISM IN MASS DALIT PROTESTS

INDIA—Vankar, a sixty-year-old Dalit activist, set himself ablaze in front of a government office on February 15. His desperate act to force the government to grant him a small piece of land resulted in a tragic death. Many Dalits facing severe discrimination and facing a bleak future commit suicide every day. The news of Vankar's death spread like a wild fire in the state of Gujarat where he lived.

Among the many demonstrations that brought the fury of the masses on to the streets, there was something different this time. Several members and friends of ICWP were with the masses talking about communism as the only solution to the capitalist murders and severe sexism faced by the working class all around the world.

While political parties controlled by the bosses talked about 'justice' for the family of Vankar, ICWP members patiently explained that under capitalism there is no justice

as the bosses control and defend the system of wage slavery. This system of wage slavery requires racism and sexism. ICWP is organizing the working class to destroy capitalism and create a communist system without money and based on the needs of the working class. This communist society will struggle to eliminate racism, sexism and cast discrimination.

As the mass demonstrations grew bigger and more violent, the fascist ruling party, afraid of rising anger of the masses, announced that it will allocate a piece of land to the family of Vankar. We took this opportunity to explain to the masses that in communism there will be no private property. Private ownership will be replaced by collective work, where everyone will contribute according to their ability to fulfill the need of all.

Many young people who listened to us were very interested in organizing for communist revolution.

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AEROSPACE DOGFIGHT SHOWS NEED FOR MORE COMMUNIST ORGANIZERS

SAO JOSE DOS CAMPOS, BRAZIL —Thousands of workers rallied at the site of the main Embraer aircraft factory in Brazil.

"The bosses are planning layoffs. They are going to eliminate health insurance and pensions," said Enrique, an old friend and *Red Flag* reader. Now they are trying to set up a Boeing-run partnership to produce new regional jets.

Airbus bosses (with a controlling share) are partnering with the Canadian government and its Bombardier Aerospace Company to produce a regional jet that will compete with Boeing and China. They are planning to move part of their production to Alabama.

Boeing is trying to do the same thing in Brazil—to partner with the Brazilian government and its Embraer Aerospace Company to produce a low cost regional passenger jet to compete with Airbus and China—with Boeing having the controlling shares.

Boeing workers also know this drill.

"Airbus workers are pissed like we are. It's sending work to low-wage areas like Alabama in the US.. Boeing is doing the same in South Carolina and in Brazil if it gets its way," said another long-time friend at a Seattle-area plant.

"We want a real solution" is the demand of hundreds of thousands of aerospace workers worldwide. Only communism can provide it.

Unions are powerless when faced with this mad scramble for cheap labor. Many union leaders, like Brazilian ex-president Lula, once an Embraer metal worker, end up spending their time with "bankers and rich [corporate] executives," as Enrique put it. There is no other path open to these union leaders if they want to maintain their personal power.

That won't happen in communism because there won't be any banks or

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FLORIDA SCHOOL SHOOTING SHOWS NEED FOR REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST WORKERS AND STUDENTS TO CONTROL SOCIETY—AND GUNS

USA, Feb. 21—Eighteen school shootings since January 1st. Seventeen killed – mostly youths—by a young male white-supremacist with an assault weapon in Parkland, Florida. Masses are grieving. Students are planning walkouts for gun control.

“The promise of safety and security failed us,” said a survivor whose parents fled to the US from war-torn Lebanon

None of us will be safe until all of us are safe. Until we build a society based on mutual love and respect, instead of exploitation and profits. Until we are mobilized to meet everyone’s needs, emotional as well as physical. Until the material basis of racism and sexism – the wage system— has been destroyed. That is, until we build communism – the only way to end the organized mass racist violence of capitalism-imperialism everywhere.

But is gun control the solution? Sadly, no.

US Capitalism-Imperialism: Legacy of Racist Violence

From the very start, European colonists planted the seeds of capitalism in North America at gunpoint and watered them with the blood of nearly twelve million indigenous people.

Capitalist slave traders killed at least four million Africans in the horrific Middle Passage. Their guns suppressed rebellions on about one out of every ten slave ships. Guns, whips and torture wielded by capitalist landowners forced enslaved men and women to work under the most brutal conditions.

And still enslaved people rebelled. When the Civil War began, many rushed to the front lines, seeking guns to turn on their oppressors. Black regiments were decisive in defeating the slaveocracy.

After the US Civil War, the organized violence of the capitalist state expanded its reach overseas. US rulers built a global empire out of the barrels of Winchester repeating rifles, Colt revolvers, and the M-16 automatic weapons that gave rise to the AR-15s used in Parkland, Las Vegas, Orlando, and Sandy Hook.

It’s true that there are few (if any) mass shootings in capitalist countries with strict gun-control laws. But the US is different mainly because it’s an imperialist superpower in steep decline, amidst a profound capitalist crisis of overproduction. Its rulers can only rely on hard power – guns – to confront rival imperialists and to con-

trol the masses at home. But they can’t even control their guns.

Global Capitalist Crisis Fosters Racist, Sexist Violence

Capitalist crisis is what’s behind the US fascist culture of violence with its “action flicks,” its video games, its music and even its football, which systematically inflicts traumatic brain injuries on players, including young children. This celebration of violence is unbreakably linked to a viciously sexist concept of “manliness.” And it’s linked – as in the case of the Parkland shooter – to the worst kind of racism.

The Parkland shooter was known among classmates for his abusive treatment of women and his hatred for Jewish people (40% of the school population), Muslims, and black people. This warped fascist mentality can’t be written off as “mental illness,” however disturbed he was. Mental illness does not make its victims commit hate crimes! Capitalism causes hate crimes!

Communist Revolution Will End Capitalist Violence

Societies ruled by a tiny minority who brutally exploit the masses rely on a “state” (government) that claims a monopoly on the use of force. Since January 1st, US police have shot and killed 175 people (16 in Florida alone). At least 19 were mentally ill. At least 3 were minors. Where is the call to disarm the police? It’s the communist call to mobilize for revolution.

In communism, nobody will be allowed to exploit or oppress anyone. Our International Communist Workers’ Party will recruit massively and mobilize even broader masses to ensure our own safety and security. Our Red Army will use the weapons made by the workers to defend the workers and to suppress any racist-sexist-fascist groups that try to disrupt our new way of life.

Communist production for need (not profit) will replace wage slavery, the material basis of war and alienation as well as of sexism and racism. Communist culture will foster collectivity, mutual respect and deep connections with each other and the earth. Violence against each other will become as unthinkable as cannibalism is today.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 3000 adolescents die every day – 1.2 million per year worldwide – from largely preventable causes. Capitalism can’t prevent these deaths, but communism will.

Only violent revolution can destroy capital-

Shandong, China, 1965—Rather than the private individual ownership of guns, communism will train masses of workers to use guns for the defense of the revolution. During war or not, deciding how and when to use them will be a collective political decision like all social decisions, not left in the hands of individual owners of arms. Communist collective responsibility is the best antidote to killings like those in Florida.



ism. This may be a hard thing to say to students and others who are grief-stricken by the wave of school shootings. But it is true. It must be said.

Young comrades of ICWP must take this message to classmates, to workers in the factories and fields, and to soldiers, sailors and Marines. In the US, let’s prepare now to bring communism into the high school walkouts and marches for “gun control” planned for March 14, March 24 and April 20. Let’s use them to mobilize for a communist May Day!

Industrial Workers Talk About Florida Shooting

On my lunch break at work on Thursday night I was watching CNN commentators debate gun regulation again after the latest school shooting which left 17 students dead in South Florida. My coworker and I started to discuss it ourselves.

“Well, Steve, you being a communist and all I’m sure you must feel that they need to take all our guns away and that will solve everything. Am I right?” said Stan,

“No,” I replied. “Actually, my communist politics don’t involve the government disarming the masses because in order to overthrow this system we need arms.”

Stan just looked at me for a second after I said this. Then he tried to persuade me that mass mobilization isn’t what we need. “If the masses were so tired of this system, the great part about living in the US is that we can overthrow our government if we’re dissatisfied.”

I pointed out to him that martial law and other such methods have kept that from happening up to this point.

“Guns are a problem under this system but also our social structure. If this were a communist society, this would never have gotten this far.”

For the remainder of our lunch hour, Stan listened as I explained to him how social relations would be under communism. “Someone would have intervened and said something to prevent this anti-social behavior. This society breeds racism and individualism, which teaches us to mind our own business. These are the issues which led up to the shooting in Florida.”

“Well, Steve, you have a point there,” said Stan. Although he told me he wasn’t all the way sold on communism just yet, he at least agreed that it sounded like a better solution than what we have now.

—a comrade



JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS’ PARTY (ICWP)
WWW.ICWPREDFLAG.ORG — (310) 913-9704
E-MAIL: ICWP@ANONYMOUSSPEECH.COM
WRITE TO: P.M.B. 362
3006 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90007, USA

YOUNG COMRADES MARCH AGAINST RACIST POLICE MURDER— NEED TO MOBILIZE FOR COMMUNISM

LOS ANGELES (USA)—On February 4, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs murdered Anthony Jacob Weber (AJ), a sixteen-year-old black youth. The murder took place near 107th and Budlong in the Westmont area in South Los Angeles.

The following Saturday, community members took to the streets, marching from the place the crime was committed to the sheriff station. About 200 people demanded an end to murders by the police and sheriffs, ‘justice’ for AJ and a complete investigation. Among them were families affected by police terror, part of AJ’s family, including his father, members of the community and students from a nearby high school who knew AJ personally.

Red Flag was there to present the communist alternative. Nearly 100 copies of **Red Flag** were distributed. Some of the protesters waved it in protest.

The murder took place a block and a half from a high school in which students receive and read **Red Flag**. It is these students who are taking leadership in organizing actions to end this system that is killing us. These young people are planning to march from the school to the sheriff station.

In their press conference, the representatives of the sheriffs tried to wash their hands of guilt by declaring that “the sheriff saw that the suspect had a weapon and gave him orders not to move. The suspect turned and fled the area to the patio of the complex.” That is where the shooting happened. They shot into Anthony’s body more than

ten times. They found no weapon.

Anthony’s brother described how he himself had been handcuffed and put in the patrol car while his brother was bleeding to death lying on the pavement. “F**k your brother,” the sheriffs told him.

“He had a good soul,” AJ’s elementary school teacher told a comrade and added, “he would never have been capable of taking out a gun and pointing it at any one, much less the police.”

This racist murder represents another new murder that is part and parcel of the capitalist system. It represents violence against those destined to rebel against this capitalist system of oppression.

To this bloody attack against us we have to respond with the reality that we want and need a different world. That world is a communist

world without police or sheriffs, borders or nations or racism. We will fight for this communist world.

A communist world in which every human being will be worthy of the best life that he or she can have, a world where we will all collaborate for this collective goal, for the complete wellbeing of everyone. In this way we can all live the fullest lives possible. Join the International Communist Workers’ Party and help create this world in which murders by the police or the sheriffs will cease to exist.



SOUTH LA, Feb. 10—Protestors angry at the police murder of AJ Weber take *Red Flag*.



PASADENA (USA), Feb. 16—ICWP comrades join a protest against racist police brutality and murder.

HOUSING CRISIS SHOWS NEED FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

SPAIN—The Barceloneta is one of the emblematic neighborhoods of Barcelona, famous for the fishermen who live there. Many of the workers from this neighborhood have been practically thrown out of their homes. Some could not pay their mortgage and were evicted. Others simply lived in shacks, called “the shanties.”

Tourism, in full swing, favored the idea of turning a neighborhood of fishermen into the Miami of Europe.

With the building of the Maritime Walk during the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, workers were exiled. The old “Somorrostro” (as the beach area and shacks were known traditionally) was destroyed. All of these families (more than fifteen thousand people) were thrown out to make room for tourism and to raise the prices for rentals and properties for businesses and foreigners.

The sharp struggles by some neighborhood movements couldn’t do anything to stop this attack. That is why the need to lead the masses to fight for communism is inevitable.

During the last ten years the system has managed to divide the neighbors of this community. It has made some believe, on the one hand, that it’s good to “improve the neighborhood,” allowing foreign investment. For example, Russian magnates have bought part of the port. They have their luxurious club where they organize their parties and park their yachts.

On the other hand there are those who believe that they can stop this eviction of workers by having demonstrations and fighting for reforms. The capitalist system gives them these tools, which can never resolve the problem of housing for the working class. Capitalism creates more racism

and oppresses workers more every day.

Red Flag has written about gentrification. This can also be called “elitification” or “bourgeoisification” by revaluing or raising the price of a workers’ neighborhood.

In Spain, between 2008 and 2014, more than half a million families were evicted by the banks and abandoned out in the open. Some resorted to going to live with relatives or friends.

In November of 2010, Juan Alvarez, 45 years old, hung himself in the middle of the street because the City Council of Barcelona did not grant an extension for his eviction. It was winter and he didn’t want to spend it in the cold with his wife and daughter.

The banks seize the home that you bought on credit and you are obligated to keep paying this credit or mortgage even if you no longer have a home.

The working class does not need to rent or to buy any real estate. We don’t need to pay for anything. WE DON’T NEED MONEY. In a communist world, we only need ourselves, working to build our homes and to adapt them to meet our needs.

We have to build a society where the workers do not have to commit suicide or live outside because they don’t find “opportunities.” We don’t need owners of land (private property). We only



**The Barceloneta
Left: in the 1960s; Right: in the 1990s**

need to live, and enjoy life, meeting the needs that we have by working together.

The defeat of capitalism is very certain. The International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) struggles every day, calling on the working class to mobilize for communism. ICWP is growing every day and we must continue growing to be able to destroy capitalism. ICWP and its political line of building a communist world needs the entire working class throughout the whole world because that is the only way that the social problems will be solved for the benefit of the same working class. We have to form collectives where the line of the party will be the vanguard. Our work must be focused on spreading communist ideas throughout the world.

The distribution of our newspaper **Red Flag** means the building of our party and also the struggle that we have against the system. Join us—we will win!

South Africa:

SHIFT OF POWER TO THE WEST

On December 2017, the South African ruling party, the African National Congress (ANC), held its 54th National Congress to elect their new president. The battle was between President Jacob Zuma's ex-wife (Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma) and Cyril Ramaphosa.

Each of these individuals represents different masters. It is public knowledge that Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma is serving the same master as her ex-husband, which is eastern imperialism. On the other hand, Cyril Ramaphosa represents the western imperialists. This is the side that won as Cyril Ramaphosa became the ANC president.

Ramaphosa had to put plans into motion before it became very difficult for him to meet his obligations to his masters. It didn't take long before the newly-elected president stated that he didn't support the nuclear reactor deal that was won by the Russian imperialists. He justified this by saying the country cannot afford it in its current economic state.

Things changed from bad to worse. The opposition parties and members within the ANC de-

manded that President Zuma step down and hand over the ropes to the new ANC President. Otherwise, they would not allow him to address the country. This led to the State of the Nation address being postponed for the first time in this so-called "democratic country."

President Zuma refused to step down, asking for 3-6 months more of power. This led to other political parties wanting to dissolve the parliament while others wanted the parliament to impeach him.

On Feb 14, due to the pressure within the ruling party, the public and opposition parties, the ANC National Executive Committee recalled the president. After lengthy meetings the President addressed the public to hand in his resignation from office, which he has occupied since 2008.

As communists this presents us with an opportunity to mobilize the masses to join ICWP and fight for a communist society. This so-called "Change of leadership" doesn't translate into

better living conditions, the end of exploitation, demolishing of borders and certainly putting an end to capitalism. It simply means that the power is shifting towards the western imperialists to put into motion their plans. Their plans are to exploit the working class of South Africa and even kill anyone who is in their way as they did in Marikana in 2012.



Organizing for a Communist May Day, 2017, South Africa

INDIA from page 1

Some came to our homes and we had hours of heated but friendly discussions about eliminating caste discrimination with communist revolution. We have very close social ties with these youths who are full of energy and hungry for change.

ICWP is a young group here. Our participation has given us more confidence in fighting directly for communism. We are clear about the obstacles we face. Capitalist bosses fear communism and they spread the lies that the caste system has existed for thousands of years and that it cannot be eliminated. They also encourage and finance separatist political movements that argue that Dalits can fight by creating exclusive political groups of Dalits only.

We have decided that we must address these issues in the local language that explains ICWP's line of fighting against nationalism, identity politics and reformism. We are also increasing our distribution of *Red Flag*. We have confidence that with our communist vision of the future we will be able to win thousands to our party in the near future.



Gujarat, India

AEROSPACE from page 1

bankers, let alone corporations and rich executives. ...Or for that matter, useless unions.

In communism, where we work will not matter. We'll work for our class, not this or that company. There will be no corporate jockeying for competitive advantage because there will be no corporations.

There will be no need to hide technical ad-

vances behind walls built by private property laws. Production advances will serve our collective good, not the bosses' bottom line. We'll share innovations wherever we need them.

There will be no mad scramble to find labor at the cheapest possible wages, leading to wars and world war. We'll eliminate wages altogether.

Everyone will contribute according to their ability and commitment. And we'll make a special effort to use the jets we make to move workers around to build communist solidarity everywhere we can.

On the other hand, what we make will matter a great deal. Our collective work must provide the best we can for the masses. Workers in aerospace (and industrial workers generally) will play a crucial role in figuring out what we need at any time.

Sometimes, we'll need military planes to fight back against the inevitable attacks of the remaining bosses. Eventually we can concentrate on providing free transportation around the world. Living and working with workers from all parts of the world will help break down the nationalist and racist prejudices inherited from the old capitalist system.

Profit will no longer determine what is pro-

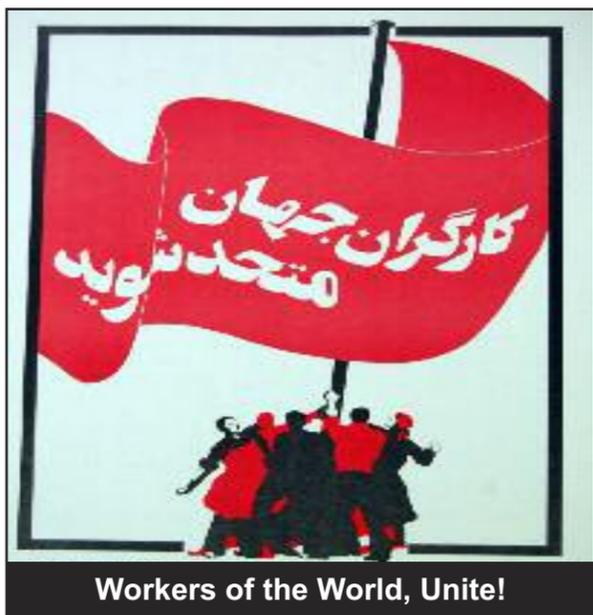
duced. The military need to defend imperialism and to subjugate sections of the working class will no longer play any role in production decisions.

The struggle for communist production, which includes collectively deciding what our society needs, will create millions of communist industrial organizers. Most of us will get some experience working in industry.

The battle to put our collective needs above all else will produce more than just the best material goods. It will also reshape society and ourselves. Communism will succeed when the party leads masses to engage in this fight.

We start now by connecting aerospace workers, friends and families that are sympathetic to communism from around the world. We compare and test our strategies for communist mobilization in *Red Flag*. We are planning ICWP regional industrial conferences in the fall to widen our base.

Communist relations of production produce communist organizers above all else. Developing such organizers is our prime responsibility now—and in the future.



Workers of the World, Unite!

COMMUNIST STREET THEATRE PREMIERES AS RUSSIAN REVOLUTION RAGES

"Here a person can understand socialism in his heart better than he can at home in his head after reading a whole library." This is how a visiting Swedish worker described the effect of watching "The Mystery of Liberated Labor."

"Liberated Labor" was a mass spectacle produced in Petrograd (later, Leningrad) in the first years of the Russian Bolshevik revolution. The Revolution was a real festival of the oppressed. It unleashed the joy of the masses and led to new forms of theater that involved the masses as participants and not just spectators.

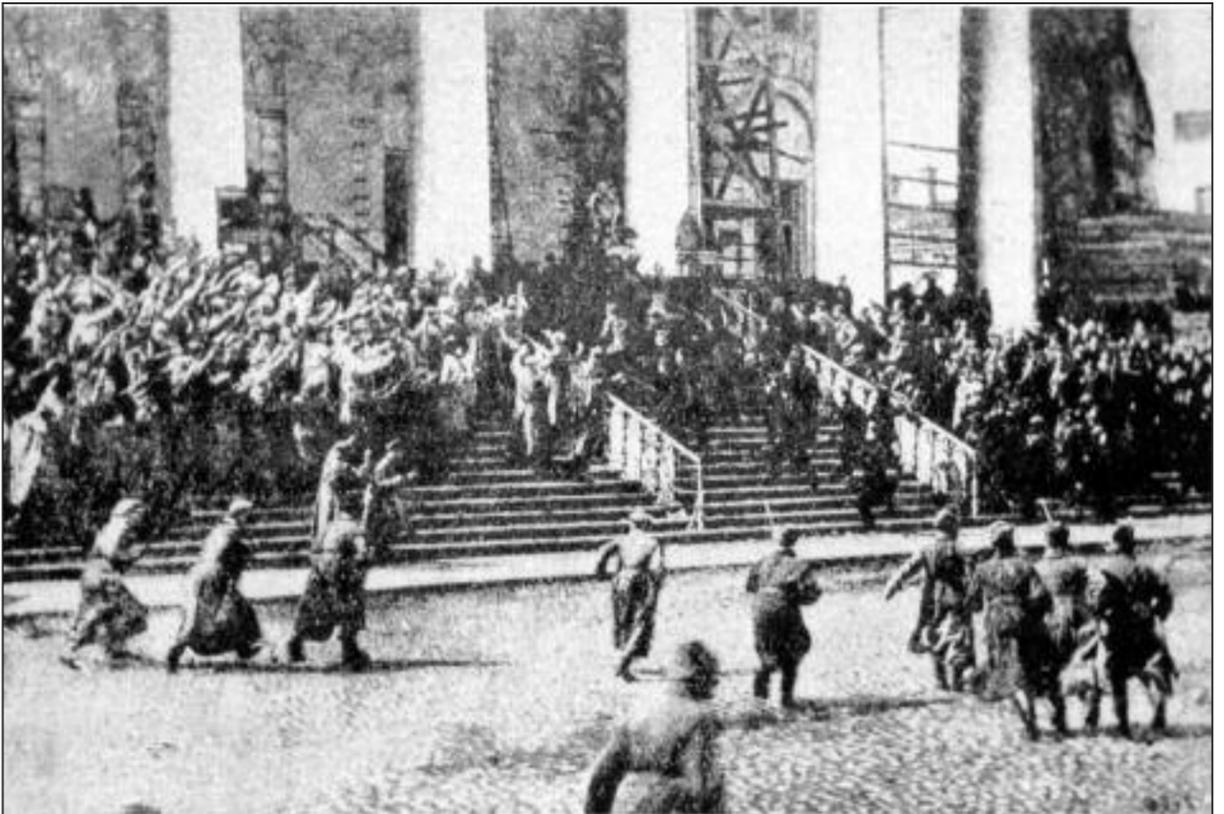
The first big occasion was the November, 1918 anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution. The Moscow celebration featured a huge parade and speeches by Lenin, but also dozens of theatrical performances in twenty-one theaters. Every musician available was employed making music in clubs, union halls, and free theaters. At night, effigies of capitalist leaders and class enemies were burned for forty minutes. This was followed with fireworks and the raising of the new emblem, the hammer and sickle.

In terms of theater, Petrograd tried to outdo Moscow. The Petrograd specialty was street theater (later sometimes called "guerilla" theater). Flying troupes spread throughout the city on platforms pulled by trucks and streetcars. The performances included skits, clowns, and songs, and lasted 15 minutes or so.

In March 1920 a Red Army group put on "The Fall of the Autocracy," the first mass spectacle. As Richard Stites wrote in *Revolutionary Dreams*, "actor soldiers representing the autocracy and the Revolution spoke lines from the press, held stylized meetings, sang, and simulated combat." "The Fall of the Autocracy" was so successful it was repeated 250 times in barracks, camps and squares around Petrograd.

Experienced and classically-trained artists got enthusiastically involved and the productions got more ambitious. On May Day 1920 they performed "The Mystery of Liberated Labor."

This spectacle dramatized the history of working people trying to break through the golden



A production of "The Mystery of Liberated Labor."

gate of the "kingdom of brotherhood and equality." Spartacus, Stenka Razin (a Cossack rebel against Tsarism) and the sans-culottes of the French revolution attack the rulers, but are crushed. Finally, a red star rises in the east. The Bolsheviks break through the gates and scatter the exploiters. In the finale, ships on the river light up the scene, cannons in the nearby fortress go off, four bands play the Internationale, and the audience merges with the performers to join in singing. There were four thousand performers and thirty-five thousand spectators.

Three other spectacles were produced in Petrograd alone that year. The new art form did not last, however. After the civil war was over the army withdrew its support and the spectacles

ended. Soviet art reverted to the capitalist model in which a handful of elite stars (whether ballet or film) perform for a massive but passive audience.

We can learn a lot from the experiments with communist theater during the civil war. One lesson is that everyone can play a role in producing great art. We can be sure that many of the four thousand performers of "Liberated Labor" were relatively unskilled. And that at the same time they learned a lot from producing it.

In communism we will mobilize the masses for communist art. In fact, we can start now! We can sing songs, rap, make posters and paintings, put on plays, dance. What a great way to involve people in fighting for communism!

Organizing Creative Arts to Create Communists

The Bolshevik mass spectacles involved hundreds of relatively unskilled and inexperienced performers – 'amateurs' – but were anything but amateurish. The amateurs made up for their lack of experience with their commitment and discipline. Putting on a performance with thousands of performers is practically a military operation.

The organizers included a small group of experienced artists who were professionals in the old society. One of the main leaders was Platon Kerzhentsev, a veteran Bolshevik and co-founder of the left-wing Proletkult (Proletarian Culture) organization. Kerzhentsev had spent several years in exile in the West and used the time to study new trends in theater.

He was impressed by the Hampstead (UK) "St George and the Dragon" traditional spectacle put on every year. It was a joint work by the whole community and involved hundreds of villagers. They did everything from performing, to playing music, to painting props.

Kerzhentsev returned to Russia after the revolution and helped the Red Army theater workshops produce the mass spectacles. They took the Hampstead approach and scaled it up by a factor of ten.

Kerzhentsev worked out a theory of mass artistic production, and described it in his book "Creative Theater."

Kerzhentsev insisted that the people's theatre was not a theatre for the people but a 'theatre of the people,' i.e. based on the creative work of the working class. He said that "the task of the proletarian theatre is not to produce good professional actors who will successfully perform the plays of a socialist repertory, but to give an outlet to the creative artistic instinct of the broad masses".

Unfortunately, once socialism (as opposed to communism) tightened its grip, Soviet theater became what Kerzhentsev had warned against.



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Math: Who Needs It?

COMMUNISM WILL COUNT ON EVERYONE!

CALIFORNIA (USA) — People need math to help plan, make decisions and evaluate the production and distribution of goods and services. In communism, all of us will do that.

Every process has both qualitative and quantitative aspects. Real math studies general quantitative aspects of different kinds of things: How much? How many? How are they changing? How are they related?

How is a teacup like a doughnut? How is a cooling-off cup of tea related to global climate change? How is computer science related to planning a trip to visit comrades in several different cities? These are mathematical questions.

Most of us never learn real math in school. Instead, we memorize facts and follow procedures. We solve puzzles called “applications” that nobody ever does outside of class. Many of these involve money: they are exercises in capitalism.

Students leaving a typical math classroom are talking about how many “points” or what “grade”

they got – not about mathematical ideas or problem-solving.

Math education IN capitalism is math education FOR capitalism. Most workers’ children are taught to follow rules and work for grades and points, the school equivalent of wages. They are set up for failure. They are supposed to conclude that they aren’t “smart enough” to do interesting work and don’t “deserve” as comfortable a life as others.

Even students entering technical fields mostly learn “how” without learning “why.” They’re not encouraged to think about the effects on other workers of what they do, much less how things could be done very differently.

No wonder so many of us say “I was never any good at math” or “I hate math” or “Who needs it?”

Math education IN communism will be math education FOR communism. We can’t say now exactly what that will be like. For sure no problems about money or investments! No points or grades! No “exams” as we know them! For both children and adults, learning math will be cooperative, voluntary, and connected with productive work.

“It is not an imposition on children or an artificial exercise to work with numbers, quantity, classification, dimensions, forms, measurement, transformation, orientation, conservation, and change, or speed and space,” wrote the Italian educator Loris Malaguzzi. “Because these explorations belong spontaneously to the everyday experiences of living, playing, negotiating, thinking and speaking by children.”

Malaguzzi was part of the Reggio Emilia group that established a world-famous early-childhood program in post-World War II Italy. Malaguzzi got involved when he met a group of working-class women who were digging mud for bricks to build a school for their children. Their region was a communist stronghold that had fiercely resisted Mussolini’s fascism. Reggio Emilia flowed from this communist vision and can teach us a lot about communist education.

But it’s not possible to build islands of communism inside of a capitalist society. Communist education demands communist revolution. And

without it, math education – along with war, climate change, racism, and economic inequality—will continue to get worse.

US Capitalists Legislate Ignorance

Recent California laws are “transforming” community colleges to more “efficiently” prepare young workers to be wage slaves. This is part of a nationwide wave of corporate-driven reform. For example, “Pathways” programs have students take only the courses they “need” for a particular career.

California law AB 705 represents another movement. It decrees that all high school graduates are “college-ready” so none should have to take “remedial” work in English or math.

That would be fine if it were true. But working-class high schools have already been trashed by corporate-driven reform, including privatization and high-stakes testing. They pass along many students without even elementary skills. Now the California legislature (controlled by Democrats) is trying to force community colleges to do the same.

Dedicated instructors are frantically asking “What can we do?”

“The corporate class and their politicians have an interest in making the masses passive and ignorant,” a comrade teacher has been answering. “The main thing we need to do is mobilize for revolution.”

Many nod. Some are seriously interested. But that revolution has to be for communism. Only communism can end the wage system and class society.

There were no “good old days” of math education. Math is a big piece of how ruling-class education divides “mental” from “manual” labor. That’s their excuse for why workers supposedly can’t organize and run production and all other aspects of society. It’s their excuse for class society with its sexism, racism and exploitation of the masses.

Only communism can develop all children’s spontaneous explorations of numbers, measurement, transformation and the rest into conscious tools for building a collectively-run society where we will all help meet each other’s needs.



Ada Gobetti, Italian anti-fascist partisan and member of the Reggio Emilio education collective.

LETTERS

LETTERS

LETTERS

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Capitalism & Abortion

In 2008, Teodora Vasquez suffered a premature stillbirth. She was arrested, convicted of homicide, and sentenced to 30 years in prison. Because of the pressure of international organizations, she was released on February 15.

She’s not the only one. Having an abortion in El Salvador can get you a 50-year prison sentence, whether it’s a spontaneous abortion—a miscarriage— or if the fetus would have no chance of survival outside the uterus. Not even children that have been raped have the right to end their pregnancy. Working-class women are exposed to this punishment because of the lack of access to birth control—much less access to an expensive illegal abortion.

All over the world, thousands of women are imprisoned for having abortions. Others die due to clandestine abortions.

This has generated a broad debate about abortion. In El Salvador, a law has been proposed which would end the penalties on abortion for a limited number of causes—rape, especially of a minor, an unviable fetus, or endangering the life of the mother.

The church, which has a lot of influence in these decisions, refuses to change its position.

It supports the law that makes abortion illegal—no matter that our working-class girls and women are dying and being incarcerated.

And it’s because under capitalism, women are judged for having an abortion, but when the baby is born there are no resources to raise him or her.

In communism, we’ll make the physical and emotional wellbeing of the masses a priority. We’ll have good quality health care for the masses, not like in capitalism where it’s a commodity for sale to those who have the money.

We’ll do away with the idea that women can’t decide what they want to do with their bodies. Women will be able to decide if they want to continue a pregnancy or not, always with the support of the collective.

Women won’t feel like they’re left alone with the responsibility to raise a child. From early on, children will learn that the collective will support the upbringing of one more member of our community. At the same time they will be taught that the women’s bodies are not sex objects. We’ll put an end to sexual

abuse.

We know that these changes won’t come about with legal reform. This real change can only come about when we Mobilize the Masses for Communism, distributing **Red Flag** so that women and men can join us in our struggle.

Let’s struggle together with our class brothers and sisters for a new system.

—Comrade in El Salvador .



LETTERS

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CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Greetings to ICWP comrades

It's been a long time since I wrote an article to the *Red Flag*. But regardless, communism runs in my blood. I will despise capitalism for as long as I live because capitalism is a ruling system designed to be against human kind—to slave, abuse, destroy and kill human kind, the masses, the working class and all communities. As long as this ruling system exists, the vast majority around the world will hunger, suffer and die in vain at the hands of capitalism.

The first step to freedom is to realize that we are not free in this capitalist system. And we must all stop voting because if this system was established to serve the masses, why do masses suffer and die in poverty and kill one another? The masses need to be reached and be taught vividly about the difference between capitalism and communism.

Some of my friends think Cyril Ramaphosa is going to make a better South Africa for the masses and the working class. It will be a better South Africa for the capitalists because he serves only the interests of capitalism, because he is a capitalist.

I will write good articles again, and will be on my feet again. I will be an ear and mouth to the masses I meet everywhere I go. We must struggle for mobilizing the masses for communism.

—A Comrade in South Africa

Communism is the Solution to Capitalism

I always hated writing, more especially reading. To come and think of it, I never was interested in anything but the satisfaction of my needs. On top of it all, my most humongous lack is on patience, though I can't really explain why.

While I was learning about communism, I simultaneously learned about the capitalist exploitation. Capitalism makes us buy the very production we've produced ourselves. Capitalists feed themselves off our strengths using their manipulating skills. They suck our (working class) blood dry by threatening to jail, vacate, fine or even worse. To kill us if we don't participate on whatever they need us to do.

Most teenagers join the army thinking that they can fight for their country, so they were told. I've been pacing my thoughts back and forth in my mind, trying to think of a fast and effective way of implementing communism not only to some countries but to the entire world.

From my experience, Capitalism is a dud weapon of mass destruction. Two centuries ago, eight-year-old victims of industrial accidents marched on the streets protesting working conditions and child labor, only to be beat down by police and company thugs. Fast-forward to nowadays: children are reported missing, brutally raped, or even worse and the police keep on being useless. Instead of fighting with the working class, they become the government's precious puppets with invisible strings to those who lack intellectual capacity on how the world is.

In South Africa's Black Economic Empowerment structures and programs, racism is taken to the extreme by the law in a sad but laughable way. It is almost like a bad joke. The saddest thing is that black people are in it.

Looking and paying real attention on all the horrors that are happening throughout the world, if you still believe that God exists you might as well believe that wrestling is real.

We all understand communism in different ways or in different levels. Explaining and making a person understand what communism is and what are its principles is not that hard, especially if you fully understand it yourself. In a simplest way possible, Communism is a solution to racism, sexism, xenophobia, exploitation, wage-slavery but most importantly communism is the solution to CAPITALISM!! Join ICWP.

—Comrade in South Africa

Capitalism, Imperialism and the Olympics

As I write this, the winter Olympics are in full swing in South Korea. They are under the cloud of banned Russian athlete. These problems of doping in sports are the product of capitalism, where every athlete wants to win at all cost.

But under communism there won't be any individual price. Everyone will participate in sport, regardless of age and gender. Also, under communism gender won't be segregated whereby females have to play against each other and males have to play against each other. Therefore, that will create mass participation in sport.

It is important to note that the Olympics do not serve the masses. The bulk of the profit generated throughout the tournament, from ticket sales to broadcasting rights, do not go to the masses of that specific hosting nation.

They go straight to the International Olympic Committee, even though it's the masses who paid starting from the playing fields, the village etc.

At the same time, not everything is doom and gloom because these winter games have managed to create an opportunity for North Korea and South Korea to engage in dialogue. South Korea is in defiance of their allies, the USA rulers, who oppose any dialogue between the North and the South in their desire for a nuclear strike against North Korea. Such a strike can literally lead to World War 3 because China will never allow a nuclear attack in their door steps.

At the very same time the games have shown that the Americans are isolated in their quest to permanently divide the two Koreans. This proves the decline of the American Empire and their world domination. It also shows that only communism can create the material basis for mass participation in sport.

—Comrade in South Africa

Questions About Communism

I am a Chilean who learned of *Red Flag* through a friend in Spain. I participated in distributing *Red Flag* during a May Day march there. I would like, on this occasion, to ask some very concrete and direct questions.

What is communism?

Where is communism going?

Is communist thinking only an ideal or is it concrete?

If capitalism is something concrete and communism is abstract, how do you make communism something real and tangible?

If the human being is gregarious and requires leaders, will these leaders be absolutists or are they under the rule of a collective?

To change or introduce any system of organization it is necessary that the new proposal be clear and defined. Does communism have a solid and unbreakable base, or is it subject to changes administered by the collective?

Is communism a democracy?

For the masses to accept and lead a new system of popular life, it is necessary that they be informed, and this is the maximum importance of and of all those who publish and write their letters?

"A people informed is a people empowered."

—International comrade

Red Flag responds: Great questions! We invite readers to discuss them and send in their answers – or more questions.



MARCH 8th INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

LOS ANGELES (USA) — The mother of two young women comrades works at a butcher shop in south Los Angeles. She is the only woman butcher on that job—a traditionally male job. When she was hired, her male co-workers demonstrated the opposite of solidarity. When she got hurt on the job, the negative comments increased.

Nevertheless, she persisted. An immigrant and single mom, she goes to work every day. She has to, whether her male co-workers like it or not, like every other wage slave. She needs a pay check to survive. Only communism can free all workers from this wage slavery. Mobilizing for communism demands working-class unity across the boss-created divisions of race, gender and nationality.

Women have always worked.

In the 19th century, industrial capitalism began to replace the food, clothing and other goods that women had traditionally produced in the home with factory-produced commodities. This established the material basis for women's employment as wage-slaves in the factories.

Many women — especially black, indigenous and immigrant women — have always worked outside their homes. Enslaved African women in the US hoed weeds and picked cotton alongside men. Black and immigrant women have worked as domestic servants. Female Irish immigrants in the US were among the first to be employed in the textile mills.

Women first became industrial workers in English textile mills industry at the beginning of the 19th century. This is an ongoing process which continues worldwide. And as women became industrial workers they began to organize class struggle. They helped lead textile strikes in England in the 1820s and in the US starting in 1835.

Capitalist competition pits men and women workers against each other.

Capitalists took advantage of women's vulnerability and the division of the working class to lower wages. They extensively used child labor to lower wages and increase exploitation in the textile mills, farms and even coal mines. In some places, this continues today.

Trade unions responded with a sexist and reformist strategy of "protecting men's jobs." In 1877 the Secretary of the Trade Union Congress in England was cheered as he demanded a "family wage" where men could earn enough money to support their families and keep their wives at home.

In contrast, Social Democrat Clara Zetkin called on men and women workers to fight for equal pay for equal work. Instead of blaming women, she blamed the capitalists for the super-exploitation of women's labor and called for the unity of the working class. In contrast to bourgeois feminists, she called on proletarian women to join with men to fight for better working conditions for all workers.

Communists Call for Class Unity to End Wage Slavery

Marx and Engels saw the extensive employment of female labor as inevitable and irreversible. *The Communist Manifesto* (1848) challenged the gen-

dered division of labor, saying that women's emancipation depends on the abolition of private property and the creation of a communal domestic economy.

Engels, in *Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (1884), saw capitalism as creating the preconditions for women's liberation by involving women in social production. But only communism could create a new family form that properly corresponded to women's new roles.

Both Marx and Engels had a somewhat mechanical view that the experience of industrial work was a necessary condition for women's liberation. But women comrades from rural communities in El Salvador who participated in armed anti-imperialist struggle and women comrades in South Africa who fought against apartheid have become communist leaders.

However, women industrial workers — like those in the maquilas in El Salvador, in the sweatshops in Bangladesh, and in Boeing factories and MTA in the US — are strategically positioned to give leadership to our class. Instead of the sexist and reformist demand for a "family wage," we fight to end the wage system and mobilize the masses for communism.

Women like the butcher in Los Angeles need the support of male comrades, who must lead others in the fight against sexism. Male workers who see their jobs as "manly" are hurting themselves and their class by putting gender identity ahead of class consciousness.

We must see each other as co-workers and potential comrades. The experiences of women workers, especially women workers of color will help provide the leadership the working class needs in its march toward communism.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

Protecting our "jobs" vs. fighting to end the wage system

The English trade unions fought to keep women out of "men's jobs" in 1877 they were pursuing a strategy that unions have pursued for generations. The fight to protect "our jobs" illustrates the dead-end nature of reformism and trade unionism. Fighting to defend a job makes it inevitable that workers will fall into the traps of racism, sexism and xenophobia that the bosses set for the working class.

The history of the trade union movement in the United States and South Africa is full of examples of white workers fighting to keep black workers out of skilled jobs.

US unions kept Chinese and Japanese immigrants out of unions for almost a hundred years.

The United Farm Workers Union under Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta attacked undocumented immigrants as they came across the border

and called the Immigration cops on them in the San Joaquin Valley.

Unions in the US with their "Look for the Union Label" and "Buy American" campaigns promote a nationalist and xenophobic agenda as they defend the wage slavery of US workers.

Even in the short run, this is a losing strategy. Wherever unions have kept women, people of color and immigrants out the unions, the bosses have been able to use them as strike-breakers.

But the solution is not a more inclusive trade unionism that can win a few nickels and dimes from the bosses in a contract struggle. We don't put slogans like "Organize Undocumented Workers" on our protest signs.

We fight for the international working-class unity of immigrants and citizens that we need to wipe out capitalist exploitation once and for all. Our slogan is "Fight for a Communist World without Racism, Sexism, Borders, and Wage Slavery!"



Textile workers on strike in 1928, New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA



Women guerrilla fighters, El Salvador



Women worker, India